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FORTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

HINDLEY:
FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.
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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley,

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1947.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health, and Divisional School Medical Officer:

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

C. H. WALSH, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Pathologist and Bacteriologist:

J. L. DALES, M.B., CH.B., D.T.M., D.T.H.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

County Dental Surgeon: - - T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liverpool).

Sanitary Inspectors:

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;
Meat Inspector's Certificates:—
Royal Sanitary Institute;
Liverpool University.

J. T. HAMPSON (Additional).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Meat Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.
Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitor:

Miss M. SNOWDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. CERTIFICATE.

Isolation Hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. J. DILLON, Caretakers.

Clerical Staff:

Miss E. RIGBY.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,629.
Estimated mid-1947 (Registrar General): 19,030.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1947 according to Rate Books: 5,443.

Rateable Value: £70,888.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £272.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. Two cotton mills, a weaving shed, a paint works and a steel scaffolding works give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate ...	211	184	395
Illegitimate ...	1	7	8
TOTAL ...	212	191	403

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births—Legitimate ...	6	7	13
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1
TOTAL ...	7	7	14

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate ...	14	7	21
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2
TOTAL ...	15	8	23
DEATHS ...	138	112	250

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1947 .....21.1

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 33
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ..... Nil
From other maternal causes 2
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ..... Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to other causes 4.79
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—
All Infants per 1,000 live births 57
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 40
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) 1

TABLE 1.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Mean of 5 years—

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
1942—1946	19.3	13.5	0.32	1.82
1946	19.1	12.9	0.47	1.53
1947	21.1	13.1	0.36	2.10
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on—5 years' average 1942 —1946	+1.8	—0.4	+0.04	+0.28
—on Previous year's average	+2.0	+0.2	—0.11	+0.57

Maternal Mortality Rate.

Mean of 5 years—

	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
1942—1946	3.37	3.23	53
1946	Nil	Nil	60
1947	4.96	4.79	57
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on— 5 years' average 1942 — 1946	+1.59	+1.56	+4
—on Previous year's average—	+4.96	+4.79	—3

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE II.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 mth.	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Premature Birth	5	4	—	1	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	11	—	6	3	2	—
Inanition at Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia at Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—
Otitis Media	1	—	—	1	—	—
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	—	1	—	—
Infantile Jaundice	1	1	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	1	1	—	—	—	—
	22	8	6	6	2	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1947, as compared with the previous year.

TABLE III.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths 1946	No. of Deaths 1947
Enteric Fever	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Diphtheria	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Influenza	4	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	5	—
Phthisis	9	7
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	—
Cancer	29	40
Heart Disease	56	59
Bronchitis	11	17

TABLE III (continued).

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths. 1946	No. of Deaths 1947
Pneumonia	13	12
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Diseases of Parturition	—	2
Suicide	—	—
Accidents	4	6
Other Diseases	106	103
	244	250

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and York Place, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1947 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 30 Throat Swabs, 2 samples of Water, 72 samples of Milk, and 4 Faeces.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board or the Council's own Ford ambulance during the year 1947.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram, or by the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring Authorities and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Hindley District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives or maternity nurses.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the area, is the Lancashire County Council. Three midwives are allocated to Hindley.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, White House, Liverpool Road, on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 1-45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. These Clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Liverpool Road, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

Orthopaedic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopaedic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

A sum of £100 is contributed by the Hindley Urban District Council to the Manchester and Salford Charities' Fund. This sum is there apportioned to the various Hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined twice bacteriologically and once chemically during the year 1947, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 4 houses in the fields.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type; storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1947):

Number of Privy Middens	27
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	36
Number of Pail Closets	20
Number of Freshwater Closets	5700
Number of Waste Water Closets	4
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	5
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse ...	5704
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	5385

2 conversions and 4 demolitions were made during 1947.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	1019
Number of Nuisances discovered	2275
Number of Nuisances abated	1845
Number of Informal Notices served	125
Number of Statutory Notices served	47
Number of Legal Proceedings	—

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Health Department and the local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

5 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Knackers Yard is kept under constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, and trade is carried on there without offence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) —

(i) By the Local Authority ... ... —
(ii) By other Authorities ... ... —
(iii) By other bodies and persons ... ... —

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 771

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...2243

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 —

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose approx. —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 653

REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 605

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 297

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners 47

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... —

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

(a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain a reasonably accurate position.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... —

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... —

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... —

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1947, 72 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of heat treated milk. 49 samples were satisfactory and 23 unsatisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 14 Milk Purveyors (including 11 Cowkeepers) in the district. 13 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 2 Licences in respect of the sale of "Tuberculin Tested' Milk were granted during the year.

The approximate number of cows in the district is 189.

(b) MEAT.—There are no slaughterhouses open in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1947, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

15 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 17 in 1946, and of the 15 cases, 3 were removed to hospital for treatment.

6 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 11 in the previous year. All 6 cases were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, and at the Hindley Police Station, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation.

As stated earlier in the Report, 30 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by local Medical Practitioners at the Central Clinic. During 1947, 127 pre-school and 9 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The Immunisation state of the child population at the end of 1947 is shown as follows:

	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 and under 15 years of age	Total under 15 years of age
Number of child population protected by artificial immunisation	597	1540	2137
Percentage of the number so protected to the total number of children in the age groups	35.9%	61.7%	51.4%

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1947.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

11 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, of varying severity, and cases showing any residual paralysis are receiving orthopaedic treatment.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

21 cases of Scabies were treated during the year, at the Cleansing Station, established at the Gas Yard.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil and D.D.T. Emulsion.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1947.

TABLE IV.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1947.

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages	under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belon'g to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—	1	—	—	10	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Group	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia	17	2	—	1	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	3	4	12	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	11	3	2	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	—	—	2	—
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	67	5	7	5	10	14	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Whooping Cough	5	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	132	12	11	9	16	16	43	6	2	3	2	8	4	12	33	—

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1947, 57 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Gas Yard, Cross Street, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to hospital.

CANCER.

40 deaths (23 male and 17 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1946.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Hindley cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

11 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1947, 5 being cases of Pulmonary, and 6 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 7 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE V.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	1	—	1	—	3	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & up-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	2	—	6	3	4	—	—
	5		6		7		—	

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Mondays and Thursdays, from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

The babies are weighed, and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at 1-45 p.m.

During 1947, 315 expectant mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 1,321 attendances.

In addition, the Health Visitor paid 36 first visits, and a total number of 68 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are no Maternity Homes in the district, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the district.

In pursuance of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health, Hindley has joined in the Scheme of the Lancashire County Council, for the care of Illegitimate Children in the area.

Expectant and nursing mothers and premature infants can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, dealing with the care of premature infants, all notifications of birth received indicate the birth weight of the infant, and the period of gestation.

The Health Visitor pays particular attention to all premature infants. During 1947, 23 babies weighed 5½lbs. or less at birth 12 being born at home, and 11 in hospital.

Of the 12 babies born at home, two were removed to hospital and 9 survived at the end of one month, one dying during the first 24 hours.

Of the 11 babies born in hospital, one died during the first 24 hours, and 8 survived at the end of one month.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

Number of First Visits to new babies ...		430
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	866	
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years	818	
		1684

Number of Children who attended at the Clinic for the first time during the year:—

(a) Children under one year of age... ...	395	
(b) Children between the ages of one year and five years	21	
		416

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopaedic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-Ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

Cases occurring during 1947 are classified as follows:—

——Ophthalmia Cases——						
Number Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	0	1	1	0	0	0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1947.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.															
	Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 and Up.		All ages	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
2—Cerebro Spinal Fever	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
4—Whooping Cough	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
5—Diphtheria	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...		...		...		...			3	1	1	2		...		3	4
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
8—Syphilitic Diseases	...		...		...		...		...		...			1	...		...	1
9—Influenza	...		...		...		...		...			1		1		1	...	3
10—Measles	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
11—Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis ...	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
12—Acute Infective Encephalitis	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
13—Cancer of Bronchial Cavity and Oesophagus (M.) Uterus (F.)	...		...		...		...		...		...			2	...		...	2
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...		...		...		...		...		1		1	1	5	2	7	3
15—Cancer of Breast	...		...		...		...		...		...			2	...		...	2
16—Cancer of all other sites	...		...		...		...		...		2		6	5	8	5	16	10
17—Diabetes	...		...		...		...		...		...		...			1	...	1
18—Intra-cranium; Vascular Lesions	...		...		...		...		1		1		13	4	11	3	26	7
19—Heart Disease	...		...		...				...		1	1	8	7	18	24	27	32
20—Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...		...		...		...		...		...		2	2	2	9	4	11
21—Bronchitis	1		...		...		...		...		...		4	3	5	4	10	7
22—Pneumonia	3	4	...		1		...		...		...		...		1	3	5	7
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	...		...		...		...		...		...		4	1	...		4	1
24—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		1	...
26—Appendicitis	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		1	1	1	1
27—Other Digestive Diseases	...		...		...		...		...		...		1	1	3		4	1
28—Nephritis	...		...		...		...		...		1		2	1	...		3	1
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	...		...		...		...		...			2	...		...		...	2
31—Premature Birth	5	1	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		5	1
32—Congenital; Malformation; Birth Injuries; Infantile Disease	2	2	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		2	2
33—Suicide	...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...
34—Road Traffic Accidents	...		...		...		...		...		1		...		...		1	...
35—Other Violent Causes	...		...		...		...		1	1	1		1		1		4	1
36—All Other Causes	3	1	...		...		...		...		2	1	4	3	6	7	15	12
TOTALS	15	8	...		1		...		2	4	11	6	48	34	61	60	138	112

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1947, the thirty-second I have had the honour to submit.

In an effort to stimulate housing repairs, every assistance was given by your officers to builders and contractors to obtain the necessary materials for the work, by prompt issue of certificates and direct approach to merchants. The greatest difficulties were experienced in procuring timber, lead, plumbing components, and glass, and much labour and time was occupied by those connected with the Trades, thereby resulting in raising costs of the repairs, and general delay in executing repairs. Slates are almost unprocurable and cement very scarce.

Housng.

In accordance with the Housing Act, a continuous survey of housing conditions is being made. The general standard of housing is fairly good considering the age of the properties within the district. There is, however, room for improvement. Such would be forthcoming with conditions more normal and facilities and materials available.

A number of houses were extensively reconstructed. One house in Green Lane which was closed as unfit for human habitation in 1937 was vacated and demolished.

Licensing of Building Materials and Components.

The number of Licences issued for new buildings and repairs to

existing buildings under the order totalled 378 to the estimated sum of £21,342. It was also necessary to give 257 Priority Certificates for builders to obtain certain components and materials.

Overcrowding is pronounced, and the demand for houses is increasing. There are over 900 applicants for Council houses on the books.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection is operative throughout the district. Three motor vehicles are continually on this service. One new specially constructed refuse collector with sliding shutters was purchased in 1946, the other two being adapted with partially fixed heavy cotton sheets. A second new refuse collector was ordered in early 1946, but delivery has not been made. The total weekly collection of household refuse is in the region of 95 tons, approximating an average per bin of 40 lbs. A free service is given to all types of premises up to two bins; over which a charge of 6d. per bin is made.

Kitchen Waste.

A weekly collection of kitchen waste continues. Householders have been circularised to conserve all vegetable waste, and place same in the 140 receptacles placed at intervals throughout the district. The contents are conveyed to the Wigan Corporation Cleansing Depot for treatment. The amount collected for the twelve months totalled 130 tons 1½ cwts. There is a regular house-to-house collection made by Pig-Keepers outside of the Order, thus the quantity collected by the Local Authorities does not reach a high standard.

Waste Paper.

Special drives were made during the year to increase the salvage of Waste Paper by canvass and circular appeals. Slides were also shown on the Cinema screens. The total amount collected was 40 tons, an increase of 9 tons 12½ cwts. over the previous year.

Milk Supply.

An adequate supply is produced and brought into the district. A fairly high standard of cleanliness is maintained. Guidance is given

to purveyors on the production and sale of a good quality and clean product. Two retailers have erected new dairies, and equipment is being provided for sterilisation of utensils. Retail purveyors on the register at the end of the year were:— 11 farmers, 3 dairymen and 40 retailers of bottled milk, (13 pasteurised, 2 tuberculin tested and 25 sterilised).

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There were 11 Milk Producers on the register at the end of 1947, with herds varying from 6 to 40, with a total cow population of approximately 200. Hall Farm and Leigh Road Farms in Hindley Green were removed from the register, as the buildings were demolished as the land was required for building operations. A new cowshed to house 24 head of cattle is in course of construction at Leyland Farm.

The cowsheds are well maintained and limewashing is carried out twice during the year. The farmers endeavour to give their customers a clean supply of milk of good quality.

Improvements and structural alterations were carried out at two farms:—

1. Brick floor renewed and a smooth concrete surface. Walls cement faced to 5 ft. from floor.

2. New steel boskins; floor concreted.

17 samples of milk were submitted for chemical analysis and all were genuine.

72 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination 49 were satisfactory and 23 unsatisfactory.

Periodical visits were paid to the farms during the process of milking and at other times. Advice was given and circulars issued to the farmers in an effort to obtain a pure milk supply.

Water Supply.

All houses in the district have the town's supply laid on excepting:

Barlow's Farm—Agricultural only.

Good Cheap Farm—Agricultural and young stock.

Six Acre Farm—Agricultural only.

Close Lanes Farm—Small holding, no cattle.

Negotiations are proceeding for the latter two to have a service laid on.

During the year five small holdings situated in the fields far distant from the main road were provided with a service at a combined cost to the owners of nearly £600:—

Purnell's Farm.

Eckersley's Farm.

Longmate's Farm.

Higson's Farm.

Sales Cottage.

Privy Closets, etc.

During the year we were able to reduce the number of privy middens to 27 involving 36 houses. These properties are considerable distances from the Sewer, and will necessitate extensive drainage schemes. The Council contemplate proceeding with one area comprising 9 pails and three privies during 1948, and they also hope to have converted to the Water Carriage system one of the Farms and one small holding. The proposals entail the reconstruction of drainage system with small ejector or pumping plant in the former and the construction of Septic Tank and Screening Chambers in the latter two cases.

Two privy closets were converted to the Water Carriage system which necessitated the construction of suitable Septic Tanks and Screening Chambers. Four were demolished.

Dry Ash Pits.

During the year 24 Dry Ash Pits were dismantled and the

properties provided with covered galvanised ashbins. Five now remain, which we hope to have demolished during 1948.

Provision and Replacement of Ashbins.

Ashbins falling into disrepair, numbering 413 were renewed through the activities of the Health Department. The standard bin is in general use.

Van Dwellings.

During the year we have been troubled with van dwellers who move from one site in the district to another. Usually they squat on four land sites which are owned or leased to the Council for tipping purposes or on two sites which are under private ownership. The sites are often left untidy and in an insanitary condition. After Statutory Notices have been served, it has frequently been necessary to seek the aid of the Police who have given your Staff every assistance. I would like to record my thanks for their co-operation at all times.

118 living vans were dealt with during the year.

Offensive Trade.

There is only one such business established in your area, the Knackers Yard. It is well kept and all offensive matter is quickly removed or destroyed. Rodent infestations are periodically attacked.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Infested buildings and dwellings numbering 5 were sprayed with Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. with satisfactory results.

Disinfection.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 1,040 bottles were supplied to residents, 350 at the Health Office, 480 at your distributing station at Platt Bridge, and 210 at your Hindley Green station—128 sales and 912 re-issues.

Infectious Diseases.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected, before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin, although Formic Vaplamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

The Elementary and Grammar Schools are sprayed internally with a disinfectant solution during each holiday vacation—Easter, Whitsun, Summer, October and Christmas.

Schools disinfected—43.

During the year 57 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 447 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfector.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses, 22.

Meat Inspection.

All butchers meat is controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district comes mainly from the Wigan Slaughter Houses, the distribution centre for this area, local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

Domestic Pig Keepers are allowed to slaughter within certain limits, personally reared and fed animals, by permission of the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected 19.

Area Licences to Slaughter animals to eight slaughtermen were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Meat	70¼ lbs.
Canned Vegetables	25¾ lbs.
Tinned Milk	46 tins
Tinned Soup	7 tins
Jam	19½ lbs.
Tinned Puddings	6 lbs.
Tinned Fish	22¼ lbs.
Dessert Table Sauce	9 lbs.
Canned Bacon	1 lb.
Bacon	16½ lbs.
Ham	14 lbs.
Butter	5¼ lbs.
Kippers	7 lbs.
Fish	252 lbs.
Turkeys	One

Summary of Inspections and General Sanitary Work.

Nuisances brought forward from 1946 ...	559
Nuisances reported to Committee during 1947	2275
Nuisances abated during 1947	1845
Number of letters sent	429

Number of Preliminary Notices	125
Number of Statutory Notices	47
Number of School Notices	28
Number of Parents' Notices	13
Number of Houses Disinfected	57
Number of Articles Disinfected	447
Factories	76
Knackers Yard	36
Bakehouses	28
Dairies and Cowsheds	50
Picture Halls	8
Number of Visits re Infectious Disease ...	60

Summary of Nuisances dealt with.

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	258
Defective and Choked Drains	240
Defective Roofs	142
Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts ..	144
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces ...	4
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls	73
Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys	41
Absence of Refuse Receptacles	413
Dampness	70
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	170

Insufficient Light and Ventilation	13
Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes ...	67
Defective Grates and Washboilers	206
Defective Plasterwork	146
Defective Floors	105
Verminous Houses	5
Insanitary Condition of Premises	10
Living Vans so placed	118
Insanitary Condition of Factories and Workshops	4
Insanitary Condition of Cowsheds and Dairies	22
Other Nuisances	41

Factories and Workshops Act.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices
Factories, Mechanical Power (44)	30	—
Factories, Non-Mechanical Power (8)	38	5
Building Sites (3)	8	—
	—	—
	76	5
	—	—

(2) Defects Found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.		
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Other Nuisances	3	3
TOTAL	7	7

Bakeries and Bakehouses.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 16. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects, and to the fact that limewashing was necessary. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

Milk (formal samples)	3
Milk (informal samples)	14
Cheese	4
Dried Peas	4
Split Peas	1
Dried Mint	1
Dried Parsley	1
Mixed Spice	1
	29

All the above samples were found to be genuine.

Ice Cream.

There are three Registered Manufacturers in the district.

8 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 3 were found to be unsatisfactory, apparently due to the type of container used and difficulty of sterilisation. Two of our largest manufacturers are installing new plant together with refrigerator and sterilising chambers.

Smoke Observations.

No action necessary.

In September the Council adopted a time limit consistent with the National Smoke Abatement Council's recommendation of a maximum emission of 2 minutes per half hour.

Motor Ambulance Services.

Two ambulances serve the three Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram. They are stationed at the Cross Street Garage, Hindley, and are available at any time, day or night.

The mileage covered by the two vehicles during the year was 14,857.2, and 1,431 cases were removed to or from the various hospitals:—

Manchester	63
Wigan	1095
Leigh	181
Liverpool	25
Other cases	67
	1431

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Rodent Operative was engaged throughout the year on infestations within the district. Inspections were made and infest-

ations attacked with success. All manholes in the district were pre-baited and where "Takes" observed, poisons laid. Refuse tips are also kept clear of the pests.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,

Town Hall,

Hindley,

2nd January, 1948.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works during the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

Month		No. of days on which rain fell.	Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.		Total Monthly Rainfall in inches.
January	...	17	0.62	12th	2.71
February	...	5	0.51	25th	0.78
March	...	26	1.57	12th	5.18
April	...	16	0.66	8th	2.99
May	...	22	0.79	10th	2.38
June	...	14	0.45	14th	2.02
July	...	18	0.84	8th	3.28
August	...	3	0.18	3rd	0.20
September	...	18	0.95	20th	3.08
October	...	10	0.12	9th & 17th	0.66
November	...	19	1.02	11th	4.13
December	...	19	0.65	26th	3.26
Totals for the year 1947	...	187			30.67

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1947:—

8,084,500 tons.

Previous Annual Rainfall in Inches

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
30.96	43.79	41.23	37.82	33.51	34.78	37.96	43.55	37.19	46.15	30.67

T. G. GRIME, A.M.I. MUN. E.,

Engineer and Surveyor,